

VIA: Air
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. SGAA- 31592
2-126-20/1

SECRET KAPOK
CLASSIFICATION

7 MAR 1958

TO : Chief, SE

DATE: _____

FROM : Chief of ☐ 3/8

SUBJECT: GENERAL—Plans/OBTEST

SPECIFIC—Considerations on the Termination of HTGRUBBY

References: ☐ 17771, 9 December 1957
☐ 17984, 6 January 1958

Action Required: None; for Headquarters' information and files.

Synopsis: Since the Branch does not have a qualified PSYCH Case Officer and Headquarters cannot provide one, we have reluctantly agreed to suspend HTGRUBBY.

1. The two cited references imply, by their suggested employment of the various assets available to the Branch, that continuation of the NATCOM program has assumed a position of priority over other activities in which we might be gainfully employed. These references have been discussed with ☐ who concur with the Branch view that acceptance of Headquarters' recommendations would not only disrupt any attempt at a balanced FI/PSYCH program against Albania, but would in fact virtually eliminate FI and HTGRUBBY coverage of Albania.

2. The operation and management of a single PP radio program is a difficult task, even when there is a qualified PSYCH officer available with an indigenous staff to assist him. Headquarters has expressed precisely this opinion in both DIR 06881 and DIR 10899. It is obvious that the NATCOM program cannot be run properly for any long period of time unless the proper guidance, direction, and support is given to AIPLEBE. To be effective, the program must be timely in its presentation; it must offer concrete and realistic proposals which can be acted upon by the listening audience thereby bringing about desired changes. The program must always be within the limits imposed upon KUBARK by existing PBPRIME policy. Only a Staff Officer can have access to all of the material available at the ☐ which covers his area of activity - and can therefore properly carry out his responsibility. Furthermore, a full time Staff Officer is necessary in order to inject new life and ideas into the programs so that they avoid becoming stereotyped, meaningless, and so deteriorated in quality that they reflect adversely on this Station and on KUBARK. Therefore, essentially, the problem is to find a Staff Case Officer if we are to maintain NATCOM.

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3. At the present time, the Albanian/Yugoslav Branch consists of three Staff Officers: [] who is attached to KUBARK from ODIBEX. [] is immediately disqualified because of our Yugoslav requirements. [] who has the language ability, is disqualified because of his lack of training, education, and his limited capabilities, in addition, of course, to the fact that we must have some FI coverage of Albania. The choice in the field therefore rests between [], or a part time effort by both. We are at this time disqualifying both individuals. [] will be needed to assist [] in the conduct of Yugoslav operations which are expected to become more active when our planned technical surveillance operation is realized. [] will give the necessary guidance and direction to the Branch and insure proper functioning by performing the numerous other tasks that are commensurate with the duties of Branch Chief. Thus, our answer to the question we raise in paragraph 2 is that we are unable to provide a field case officer for the PSYCH program.

4. We believe nevertheless that a good PSYCH program is probably the only means at our disposal - short of paramilitary or open conflict - of exerting external influences to attempt to bring about any desired changes in Albania. There is no question in our minds that a properly oriented program will also assist in the conduct of FI activities. In a country like Albania, where we have no other means of getting the message across, we have to rely on the radio - also an essential channel in a possible eventual "hot" situation. Because of our strong beliefs here, we have, at the expense of other Branch activities, maintained for approximately eight months, both the NATCOM and HTGRUBBY programs without a PSYCH officer. In [] 9801, we advised you that, with the existing personnel assigned to the Branch, we found it impossible to maintain two radio programs. We stated that we would begin to phase out HTGRUBBY and that we would put NATCOM on an irregular basis. We sincerely hoped that we could continue a curtailed PSYCH program over an extended period thus affording Headquarters additional time to obtain a qualified PSYCH officer. Our belief that a PSYCH officer would be made available was based on the grounds that Headquarters was also of the opinion that a PSYCH effort should be maintained. [] 17771, 9 December 1957, has made it clear from an administrative point of view that a PSYCH officer is not available. Necessarily then, much of our case officer time will be used up on PSYCH activities and only the barest minimum time can be devoted to Albanian FI operations. In view of the above, we must therefore presume that in terms of KUBARK policy, continuation of NATCOM takes precedence over FI coverage of Albania and that for all practical purposes, our FI responsibility will require only a token effort.

5. Per DIR 06740, 6 February 1958, we are therefore suspending HTGRUBBY effective 28 February 1958. AIBERM, AIPOET, and RNADUANA are being returned to the United States.

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6. NATCOM, under the supervision of [] will be continued on as regular a basis as possible with existing means. It is understood, however, that we are not in a position to guarantee the highest quality programs at all times. Furthermore, since AIPLEBE has mentioned to [] on two different occasions that he is experiencing increasing difficulty in keeping the National Socialist attitude, it appears that we must inevitably expect that the tone of the programs will slowly approach a certain neutral position between National Socialism and outright anti-Communism. Since there is no doubt in the Field concerning AIPLEBE's knowledge of the Albanian scene and his extremely facile mind, we plan to capitalize on this transition. Our expectations and our future planning are based on the gradual change-over of NATCOM to a sophisticated and possibly cynical criticism of the regime which is founded on everyday facts rather than on Leninist dogma. []

7. Concerning FI operations into Albania, we are considering the possible redeployment of our existing assets for maximum advantage of this new situation. One possibility has to do with the transfer to AIBEAT to Ioannina to increase our coverage of refugees and to establish a potential for best exploiting quick turn-around and cross-border operations. Further consideration of FI matters will be included in separate dispatches when [] returns to this []

[]
4 March 1958

Distribution:

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